January 5, 1969

Ed Planer
Bill Reed

Dear both,

When each of you let me have access to your Oswald footage I promised to keep each posted on what I considered to his interest. When I sent each of you the same letter with copies of the Secret Service reports relating to Mrs. John Tarsikes and neither complained, I presume you regard this as proper and understand my purpose to treat both of you honorably and fairly.

Therefore, because both of your stations are involved, I send each herewith copies of Secret Service report 200.

Each of you made your footage available to the government immediately Oswald was connected with the assassination. Records I earlier had left no doubt about this. However, the available copies of the film in the National Archives are both dated as having been copied 12/3/63, which is later than you made your film available. The Archives has repeatedly assure me it has no other and no earlier versions. The enclosed report not only establishes this is erroneous, at least insofar as the federal government is concerned, but also establishes that the federal investigative agencies held out on the Warren Commission, the film mysteriously disappeared from the Commission's files, or the Archives is wrong as possible alternatives.

Historically, it is also an official record of both your cooperation and the dates thereof, as it is of the existence of described footage that is not now in your file copies or in those available at the Archives. The last paragraph on the first page of this and the reports I earlier sent you do indicate that in the form in which each of you made your film available to federal investigators, each showed a third participant in the picketing, someone aside from Oswald and Charles Hall Steele, Jr. This is consistent with numerous reports to me and to the federal agencies. I have these federal reports and they are always available to both of you. I have supplied copies to the New Orleans Parish District Attorney's Office where, I am certain, they are also available to you.

The same is true of the stills from this footage. The arithmetic is very poor and the copies do not exist in the Archives, although their number is explicit in the investigative reports and, in some cases, rough descriptions. All is consistent with disguising the third man, not finding him, and making it difficult if not impossible for his subsecuent identification and questioning.

Recently I have written the Attorney General and the director of the Secret Service about these matters, without response as yet. I have also written the Archivist, who has not had time for further response. This correspondence is also available to you should you want copies.

While my chief interest is in the discovery and establishment of truth, I am sending you copies of what I think is in your professional interest and what I believe is to the interest of your stations and their owners. If either ofyou has any independent record of when you made you film available and to whom, I would welcome copies. Neither of the reels in the Archives is contained in the kind of box Pan American uses or in any kind of box, for that matter. The WWL-TV footage only has a yellow scotch-tape adhesive, yellow in color, with Pan American printed on it.

The Archives has informed me the Warren Commission files do not contain the third Tarsikes report, written by New Orleans SAIC Rice, cited in the report by him that I have already sent you. The SecretvService has not responded to my letter.

The still photograph provided by WWL-TV, of Charles Hall Steele, Jr., is in the proper file, as are two only of the stills provided by WDSU-TV. The records otherwise discovered indicate that WDSU provided a total of 17 stills on one occasion, with apparently a minimum of six different frames being reproduced. The language here is less then precise.

In the interest of accuracy, I think I should let you know my belief that the second page of the enclosed report is both inaccurate and evasive. The time of Andrews "informing" of Rice and the means (by phone, from his hospital bed, and just about immediately) are omitted when they should not have been. This information is in Andrews' subsequent testimony. Next to the last sentence of the first of the two cited paragraphs is diametrically opposed to Andrews' testimony and what he told me. The second paragrpah also is inconsistent with what Andrews is known to have said on other occasions. He told me, for example, that Oswald was in his office not less than five times; that in addition to the three reasons cited Oswald also asked advice on how to get into Mexico; that Oswald was also accompanied by a single man who seemed to be of Mexican origin and his "boss", although on the first occasions, separate from Oswald and this man, there were homosexuals present. If Andrews did tell Rice "that Clay Bertrand was probably one of the men who accompanied Oswald", this is opposed to every other statement he has made of which I have knowledge or record. It certainly is contrary to what he testified to and what he told me.

The still picture of Oswald handing out his handbill, from the WWL-TV footage, is part of the file that includes the enclosed report. That is File 87, a five-volume Secret Report. The movie film is also part of this file.

Sincerely yours,

Harold Weisberg